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Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S STATEMENT ON CAPITALISM

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE BARBARA WALTERS INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA, MAY 18, 1978 (AIRED MAY 19, 1978 ON ABC EVENING NEWS).

WALTERS: THE REASON THAT CUBA IS SO MUCH IN OUR MIND IS THAT MANY AMERICANS FEEL THAT CUBA IS A SURROGATE FOR RUSSIA, AND THAT WHAT IS GOING ON IN AFRICA NOW IS NOT JUST INDIVIDUAL WARS, BUT A TEST BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION, WITH CUBA AS THE SURROGATE, AND THE UNITED STATES; IS THAT AN INACCURATE VIEW?

KAUNDA: MAYBE IN THE -- IN THE MIND OF THE SOVIET UNION YOU MAY BE RIGHT, AS IT IS IN YOUR MIND HERE. BUT CERTAINLY IN AFRICA I DON'T SEE THAT AS AN ACCURATE ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM AT ALL. WE DO NOT CHASE AWAY SOME COLONIAL POWERS ONLY TO HAVE THEIR PLACES TAKEN BY OTHERS. WE WOULD
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NOT DO THAT.

WALTERS: MR. PRESIDENT, JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO I INTER-

VIEWED FIDEL CASTRO, AND HE SAID IN THE INTERVIEW THAT HE FELT WITHIN SOMETHING LIKE 20 YEARS ALL OF AFRICA WOULD BE SOCIALIST. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THIS?

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KAUNDA: WELL, CERTAINLY, IT IS NOW, TODAY. IT IS NOW.

WALTERS: MM-HMM.

KAUNDA: IT IS NOW.

WALTERS: IS CAPITALISM DEAD IN AFRICA? THE SYSTEM OF CAPITALISM?

KAUNDA: IT HAS NO FUTURE IN AFRICA. IT HAS NO FUTURE; I DON'T SEE IT.

WALTERS: WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

KAUNDA: SOCIALISM, AS ASSUMED BY AFRICAN LEADERS AND THEIR PEOPLE.

WALTERS: MR PRESIDENT, WHAT IS IT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING RIGHT IN AFRICA, AND WHAT IS IT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING WRONG IN AFRICA?

KAUNDA: I HAVE SAID THIS MORE OPENLY WHEN I AM IN MY COUNTRY, ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS APPROACH, HIS ADMINISTRATIONAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS FACING AFRICA. WHEN YOU SAY THAT ABOUT WHAT HAS GONE WRONG, WELL, IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAST THAT APPROACH WAS NOT THERE, AND YOU WERE MORE OR LESS CHASING RUSSIANS AND THE RUSSIANS CHASING YOU. BUT I DON'T DETECT THAT IN PRESIDENT CARTER. HE IS STABLE; HE IS FIRM. HE KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS.

WALTERS: WELL, WHAT ARE THESE SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES THAT YOU THINK ARE SO VERY GOOD IN PRESIDENT CARTER?

KAUNDA: HE IS OBSESSED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. AND IF THERE IS ANY ONE AREA WHERE HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD BE OBSESSED, IT IS THE VITAL AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

WALTERS: ARE CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA HELPFUL OR HARMFUL?

KAUNDA: THEY ARE INVITED BY SPECIFIC NATIONS. LEADERS OF SPECIFIC NATIONS. I AM SURE THEY ARE INVITED, THEY MUST BE USEFUL; OTHERWISE, THEY WOULD NOT BE INVITED.

WALTERS: YOUR NATION PROVIDES A BASE FOR RHODESIAN BLACK GUERRILLAS. HOW DOES THIS HELP PEACE IN AFRICA?

KAUNDA: I WAS TELLING THE PRESS CLUB EARLIER ON TODAY

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THAT WE HAVE BUSINESS IN ZAMBIA FOR GUERRILLAS, WHILE WE, OURSELVES, PUT AN...STRUGGLE. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING ALL ALONG THE LINE TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FORMER COLONIAL POWERS. WHERE WE HAVE SUCCEEDED THERE HAS BEEN NO NEED FOR CREATING BASES FOR GUERRILLAS. WHERE WE HAVE FAILED, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A DUTY, MORAL, SPIRITUAL, AND POLITICAL TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE DETERMINED TO REMOVE OPPRESSION FROM AMONGST THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

WALTERS: AND YOU GIVE THESE GUERRILLAS AID YOURSELF?

KAUNDA: WE DO. WE TRAIN THEM. VANCE

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